

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01 /081 W

----- 103585

R 210555Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0799

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, BM

SUBJ: PRESIDENT NE WIN'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 2452

1. PRESIDENT NE WIN VISITED SINGAPORE JUNE 13 -15. ALTHOUGH HE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO STAY ONE DAY LONGER, HE CUT SHORT HIS VISIT WHEN HE WAS INFORMED THAT PRIME MINISTER LEE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR LONDON ON JUNE 16. (THERE WERE ALSO RUMORS IN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY THAT NE WIN WAS ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO RANGOON BECAUSE OF RECENT DISTURBANCES THERE.)

2. BURMESE CHARGE OHN GYAW TOLD CHARGE PRESIDENT NE WIN WAS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS RECEPTION AND STAY IN SINGAPORE. HE GOLFED WITH LEE, CALLED ON PRESIDENT SHEARES AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN RAJARATNAM. HE ALSO VISITED THE JURONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT TOA PAYOH. ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED, OHN GYAW SAID DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN GENERALLY

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USEFUL. (STRAITS TIMES REPORTED BURMESE OFFICIALS

SAID PROMOTION OF TWO WAY TRADE HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED AND VISIT HAD PAVED WAY FOR EXCHANGES
OF VISITS BETWEEN TECHNOCRATS AND TRADERS IN THE
NEAR FUTURE. BURMESE OFFICIALS HAD ALSO SHOWN
CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SINGAPORE'S PUBLIC HOUSING
PROGRAM, PORT DEVELOPMENT AND ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES.)

3. ACCORDING SENIOR MINDEF OFFICIAL GOS DID RAISE
WITH NE WIN BURMESE SEIZURE IN APRIL OF THE
SMS 727 CHANGI, A FISHERIES RESEARCH VESSEL AND ITS CREW.
NE WIN REPORTEDLY SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO INTER-
FERE WITH THE JUDICIAL PROCESS AT THIS POINT BUT
WOULD CONSIDER CLEMENCY ONCE THE PROCESS WAS COM-
PLETED. (APPARENTLY THE PRESS STORY ORIGINATING
FROM TOKYO LAST WEEK TO THE EFFECT THAT BURMESE
COURTS HAVE GIVEN A FINAL TURNDOWN TO AN APPEAL
FROM THE CHANGI CREW WAS INCORRECT.)
GRANT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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